

**CONFIDENTIAL**NIO/PE  
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 FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHOC 4558  
 INFO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 5549  
 RUHFHR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3103  
 RUOKGPQ/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1863  
 BT  
 C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3455

State Dept. review completed

EXDIS

STATE PLEASE PASS SECOEF WASHOC

FOR UNOER SECRETARY BUCKLEY FROM AMBASSA00R

E.O.: 12065: ROS-1 7/12/02 (W000S, R. E.) OR-M  
 TAGS: ENRG, OVIP, UK, NL, NO  
 SUBJ: NORWEGIAN GAS PROSPECTS

REFS: (A) PARIS 23403; (B) OSLO 3322; (C) OSLO 3405 (NOTAL)  
 (D) STATE 1B87B0

1. CONFIOENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I APPRECIATE THE COMMENTS OF AMBASSA00R GALBRAITH (REF A) REGARDING POSSIBLE SCENARIOS FOR NORWEGIAN GAS DEVELOPMENTS. HE IS ABSOLUTELY ON TARGET WHEN HE STATES THAT TO SUCCEED, ANY PROJECT MUST TAKE COMMERCIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL SENSE. OUR NORWEGIAN FRIENDS CERTAINLY AGREE ON THAT AS WELL.

3. WE HAVE NO BASIS TO JUDGE THE FEASIBILITY OF AMBASSA00R GALBRAITH'S SUGGESTION FOR AN EXPANSION OF OUTCH PRODUCTION IN RETURN FOR SPECIAL NORWEGIAN ARRANGEMENTS LATER. AS HE POINTS OUT, IT IS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE THE OUTCH WHO ARE THE KEY TO THE EQUATION. NEVERTHELESS, IF WASHINGTON AGREES THAT THE AMBASSA00R'S IDEA HAS MERIT, I RECOMMEND THAT IT BE EXPLORED WITH NORWEGIAN ENERGY STATE SECRETARY RAMM WHEN HE IS IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 16-17 -- WHETHER OR NOT WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO CONSULT BY THAT TIME WITH THE OUTCH. ALTERNATIVELY, SHOULD WASHINGTON PREFER, THE EMBASSY COULD EXPLORE THIS QUESTION INFORMALLY WITH THE GON IN OSLO.

4. ANY APPROACH TO RAMM SHOULD BE CAREFULLY STRUCTURED SO AS NOT TO BE MISINTERPRETED AS WASHINGTON PRESSURE -- WHICH WOULD CLEARLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. MOREOVER, RAMM SHOULD BE APPROACHED FROM AN ADMINISTRATION POSITION, AND EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT ALL WASHINGTON CONSTITUENCIES SPEAK WITH A SINGLE VOICE. ALSO WE RECOMMEND THAT EXCHANGE BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL AND WHATEVER POSSIBLE BE DONE TO AVOID PRESS LEAKS. AUSTAD  
 END OF MESSAGE

CONFIOENTIAL

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